

Abstract

An access control unit to interface one ATM core network and at least one bidirectional access network is provided, which includes means to perform ATM signalling and resource management to provide dynamically adjustable ATM switched virtual connections (SVC) for subscribers connected to the access network. The central access control unit processes ATM signalling and resource management to enable e.g. switched virtual connection over HFC. During the ATM signalling phase the applications negotiate the required resources which the central access control unit of HFC extracts. The central access control unit has the ability to allow or reject a connection (SVC) setup. As soon as the a new SVC is established the access control unit performs on the ATM layer the installation of the negotiated ATM connection values (VPI (virtual path identifier), VCI (virtual channel identifier), ...) at the different involved HFC network elements.